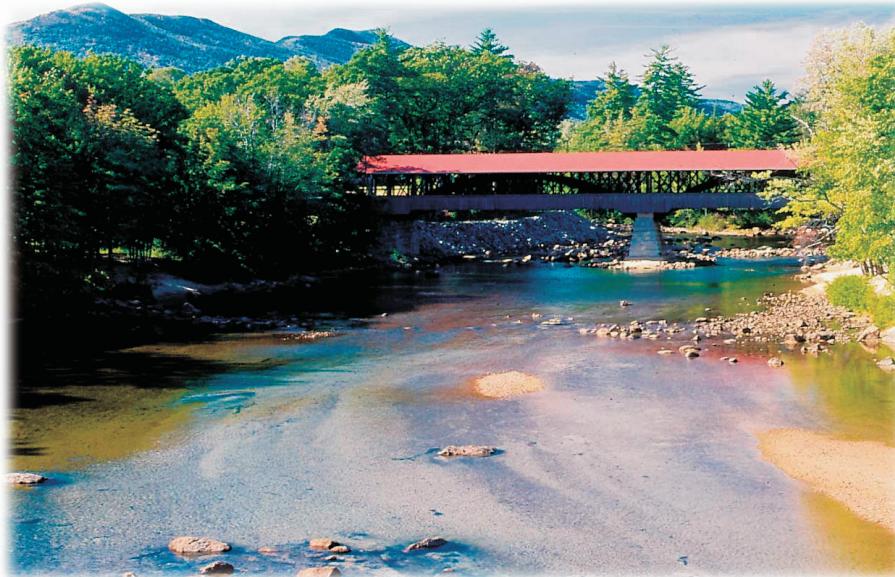


SMALL COUNTY PROGRAM A MODEL FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE



Sullivan County, New Hampshire

BI CASE STUDY:

Sullivan County, New Hampshire Inmate Transition Program

HIGHLIGHTS:

- GPS tracking and other electronic supervision tools drive accountability.
- Focus on transition to community targets reduced recidivism.
- Despite size, program offers tips for larger agencies.

The Program

More than 95 percent of all incarcerated individuals will eventually be released to local communities. Two-thirds of these will fail the conditions of their release and be rearrested within three years. In their wake, these rearrested offenders leave families that depend on them, new victims of crime, and a large tab for taxpayers.

Sullivan County, New Hampshire's second smallest county, decided to take a dramatic step in 2003 to try to change this pattern. Sullivan County, a hilly, 528-square-acre rural region, is home to more than 40,000 citizens. Factory and mill closures led to an economic downturn, created county budget pressures, and led to increased crime, typically drug activity.

During the same time, the 40-bed Sullivan County Correctional Facility was at double its capacity, reaching 90 inmates at times. Under New Hampshire law, incarcerated individuals must serve at least two-thirds of their sentence in incarceration before reentering the community. Most of these offenders, with few links to housing or employment when they were released, violated conditions of their release and were rearrested, adding more pressure to an already strained corrections system. In 2003, a proposal was given to the county commissioners to tackle this issue. The commissioners accepted the proposal, and the Sullivan County Inmate Transition Program began.

The Sullivan County Inmate Transition Program provides sentenced offenders with the opportunity to transition from incarceration to the community, with a goal of increasing public safety, reducing recidivism, and managing jail overcrowding. A key element of the program includes transitional housing and links to jobs. Another important element is the use of electronic monitoring (EM) services -- including sophisticated GPS tracking -- to provide a high level of accountability and supervision while inmates are in the community.

Inmates eligible for the program must be serving sentences longer than 90 days and they must have served at least one-third of the sentence in jail. Additionally, they must be approved by Superintendent Scott Hagar, program designer, and they must demonstrate good behavior.

The program has three phases:

- 1) The Institutional Phase: offender serves one-third of sentence in jail.
- 2) The Reentry Phase: offender moves to department managed transitional housing and work release.
- 3) The Community Phase: offenders are placed on EM and move to their own housing. If compliant with conditions of these three phases, the offenders are discharged.

Superintendent Hagar previously ran a similar program in nearby Cheshire County. He also had experience working with BI Incorporated for EM and services. He recommended BI for the Sullivan County program. BI supplies its premiere radio-frequency electronic monitoring system, BI HomeGuard® 200, BI's remote alcohol testing system, BI Sobrietor®, and BI's 24/7 national monitoring center, called BI GuardCenter®, to support the department's strict supervision efforts. Sullivan County staff also use BI GuardWare® on the Web, a password-protected Internet application that allows the agency to access and make updates to offender data, equipment, and schedules directly.

Recently, Sullivan County incorporated BI ExacuTrack™ a GPS tracking system that accurately logs an offender's movement each day - within 30 feet. "I tell the commissioners, no technology can prevent crime, but this provides us with very good detail about the offender and increased accountability," said Superintendent Hagar.

The Results

The Sullivan County Inmate Transition Program has been effective on many fronts. Offenders in the program pay their way, helping to reduce overall program costs substantially. While in the transitional housing segment of the program (prior to the EM phase), offenders pay \$20 daily to participate. Once in the EM phase of the program, they pay \$10 daily. By moving inmates to community supervision, overcrowding pressure on the jail has been greatly reduced.

Superintendent Hagar says data is being collected on whether the transitional program is actually impacting recidivism. The department feels the more gradual transition to community life, with connections to treatment, training and graduated sanctions, makes sense for long-term success. To date, 87 participants have gone through the program, with 73 successfully completing the transition program. Of the 14 that failed, five were pulled for substance abuse, eight for non-compliance, and one other for an undisclosed reason.

By having sentenced offenders balanced between three distinct phases -- in jail, in transitional housing, then on EM in their own homes -- county resources are better managed, an important consideration for flexibility and budgeting. Incarceration costs have been reduced by both the EM and transitional program. At \$65 a day to house a prisoner, the EM program has helped generate \$131,000 savings while the transitional housing program has offset more than \$85,000 in jail cost savings.

The program is being noticed by other New Hampshire counties for its structure and operational efficiency. Currently, the department is work-

ing on an educational video to share with other agencies, to explain the rationale for and how to operate such a program. Finally, county leaders and the public have been supportive of the program, due in part to the transparency of the agency, which conducts open houses, tours and other ongoing community outreach campaigns.

The Technology

BI HomeGuard® 200
BI GuardCenter®
BI Sobrietor®
BI GuardWare® on the Web
BI ExacuTrack™

"We feel an early, supervised transition to the community, along with the use of technology such as GPS tracking, increases public safety in our county."

*- Scott Hagar, Superintendent
Sullivan County, New Hampshire*

BI Incorporated

6400 Lookout Road
Boulder, Colorado 80301
(800) 701.5171
www.bi.com

